

were pioneered at NORC. The organization's capabilities in the areas of study design and survey methodology, statistical design and analysis, survey data collection (including biomarker and environmental data collection), evaluation and performance measurement, policy analysis and recommendations, dissemination and knowledge management, and technical assistance set it apart as an authority in the field of social science research. Further, its research expertise is enhanced by its interdisciplinary approach, innovative study designs and research methods, commitment to the highest standards of research excellence and scientific rigor, and strong collaborative relationships with prominent experts, senior government officials, and leading scholars.

Given its expertise in social science research, NORC plays a leadership role in numerous wide-reaching studies and surveys that provide vital insight and information into today's most pressing issues. For example, NORC manages the National Immunization Survey sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which produces national- and area-level data on vaccination rates for children and teens. It conducts the General Social Survey, which is regarded as the best source of data on societal trends and is routinely used by policymakers. NORC also advances health care innovation and effectiveness through its evaluation of four projects for the Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology. These projects are critical to understanding adoption of health IT and what resources are needed to achieve measurable gains in health care quality and efficiency. Other NORC projects of note include the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, the National Children's Study, and a series of international impact evaluations for the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

As a policymaker, I am especially impressed by NORC's unique ability to conduct high-caliber social science research and analysis designed to inform policy decisions on complex issues. Research to inform policy must be intentional as well as carefully designed and executed; I am grateful to NORC for its commitment to applying social science research to social policy, be it in the areas of health, education, economics, crime, justice, energy, security or environment. True to its mission to perform high-quality social science research in the public interest, NORC has proven a tremendous resource to my office over the years. Indeed, I have sought their expertise on multiple occasions, including recently with regard to the National Children's Study and the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth. I greatly appreciated their insight into these studies so that I could advocate for policies to improve the well-being of children and youth.

It is rare to find an organization that is skilled at both research and application of its findings. NORC has enriched public policy debate and decision making by gathering and distilling critical information. NORC's work and expertise have spanned seven decades, and I am confident the organization and its outstanding researchers will continue to have a positive effect on our nation's knowledge base and policymaking processes well into the future. This year, I celebrated my 70th birthday as well. As I look back on my own life, I can personally attest to the fortitude that it takes to have gotten this far and to have remained relevant. I commend NORC on its commitment

to high quality social science research that informs so many aspects of our society. I am proud to have NORC in my congressional district, and I wish NORC and its employees in Illinois and throughout the nation all the best on the occasion of the organization's 70th anniversary. I look forward to your continued success and excellence in the years to come.

HONORING JOHN "JACK" E. FRANK, PH.D., ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a faithful patriot, skilled counselor and educator, devoted public servant and good friend of mine for reaching a notable life milestone. On October 17, John "Jack" E. Frank, a valued member of my Congressional staff, will turn 80 years old. Having known Jack for many years, I can attest that he is a man of the highest character. He has spent nearly his entire life serving causes greater than himself.

After serving his country admirably in the Navy in the 1950s, Jack earned a Bachelor's degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a Master's degree from Westminster College and a Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University. He has used his education to foster the development of countless young men and women in Pennsylvania and to serve the interests of the citizens of Pennsylvania's twelfth Congressional District.

Jack began his teaching career at Sharpsville Junior High School while working toward his Master's degree. Following this experience, he took a job as a counselor at Yorktown High School. It was there that he met his beloved wife Jeannette, with whom he has two children, Jeffrey and Janelle, and four grandchildren, Effie, Vivian, Sophia and Elsie.

Jack spent the majority of his teaching career at his alma mater, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, serving as the Assistant Dean of Men and a veterans/career counselor. Between his work at IUP and his active participation in the local Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW, Jack became a staunch advocate and friend of our nation's proud military veterans. In recognition of his 25 years of devoted service to IUP, he received the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Distinguished Alumni Award in 2006.

Following his distinguished career in education, Jack embarked on an equally distinguished career in public service. He capably served the late Congressman John Murtha for ten years before coming to work for me following my election in 2010. I hired Jack for his inimitable wisdom, kindness and experience. No one could be a more passionate and skilled liaison to the people of Pennsylvania's twelfth Congressional District than Jack.

Mr. Speaker, Jack is a great man. While he could easily be "retired" and enjoying the fruits of his distinguished career, Jack instead continues to serve the public and the greater good. I strive every day to emulate the selflessness and devotion to the wellbeing of others that are the hallmarks of his character.

Happy 80th birthday Jack, and thank you for your service.

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES REED RUCKER

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, on a farm in Crabapple, Georgia, Charles Reed Rucker was born August 14, 1921. His parents were Jeff Lafayette (Jepp) and Nancy Emily Reed Rucker. He grew up on a farm in Crabapple which is now considered a suburb of Atlanta. Charles graduated from high school in 1938. He sold magazine subscriptions and worked for McQuary Engineering stringing power lines in South Carolina after high school and during the "Great Depression" as everyone was doing whatever they could do to sustain life.

On a hot July 3, 1940, as a young man Charles enlisted in the Navy—riding a train to Norfolk, Virginia, where he received his boot training. He was shipped aboard the U.S.S. *Prairie*. The *Prairie* caught fire perhaps from a torpedo, and Charles along with the crew went aboard the U.S.S. *Dennabola* and was sent to submarine squadron 3 in the Panama Canal Zone where patrol off the coast of Panama and Eastern South America. A palm log pierced the bottom of the patrol plane which was equipped with 4 depth charges set to automatically arm at 25 feet of water. The crew had to abandon the plane and swim to shore but before they reached the shore the U.S. Army Corps from France Field came to their rescue and returned the crew to the station in Panama.

From there Charles went to officer's training school at Mercer University at Macon, Georgia, after which he was assigned to Whiting Field in Pensacola, Florida, then to Cony Field. While serving at Cony Field he was promoted to Leading Chief of his squadron. After 2 years he was sent back to Panama Canal Zone to form another squadron. The second day after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, his squadron was ordered to Pearl Harbor to assist in clean-up.

After this operation Charles returned to the states with the Navy Transport Squadron VR673. Next they were ordered to the European Theater on a diplomatic mission, crossing the North Atlantic into Ireland. From Shannon, Ireland they flew in to France, England and Germany.

From there the crew went to Holland and from Holland to Brussels, Belgium, the back again to England, then back to the U.S. Charles was transferred from the 15th Naval District to the 5th Naval District in Charleston, South Carolina, and ultimately returned to NAS Atlanta as a member of VR673 active reserve as Leading Chief Petty Officer. From NAS Atlanta Charles flew support missions during the Korean Crisis and the Vietnam War. He remained stationed at NAS Atlanta in the reserve until he retired on his birthday, August 14, 1981.

Charles started to work for Delta Airlines in Atlanta in 1954 in the maintenance department, then progressed to the Engineering Department where he edited a technical publication that aided maintenance personnel. He remained in that position until retirement in 1983. After retirement he and his wife, Claudia, moved from their home in Doraville, Georgia, to Lake Lanier. This was a wonderful transition for Charles and Claudia. After Claudia's